

Project Overview: *Fast-tracking Acquisition Security Transformation (FAST) Study*

MITRE is tasked by OUSD(I&S) to analyze opportunities to optimize **acquisition security** to more quickly and securely enable the Defense and National Security Industrial Base (DIB/NSIB) to put key technologies in the hands of our warfighters and not our nation's adversaries. Over several decades, the Department of Defense (DoD) has amassed security policies, processes, and procedures to protect technologies, systems, and platforms built by the DIB/NSIB. This MITRE study seeks to address government-mandated security requirements and processes in acquisitions that are outdated, ineffective, or overly burdensome to industry partners working to advance the U.S. national interest. MITRE will collect data and engage leaders, practitioners, and innovators across Government and the DIB/NSIB like you, including academic institutions and your researchers.

You are invited to take part in the study. This is your opportunity to provide your feedback and input. We want to gather your input on **specific** security policy, process, and practice challenges that adversely impact cost, schedule, and performance when working—or trying to work—with the DoD. Additionally, we are interested in your ideas for **practical** changes to current DoD acquisition security requirements, practices, systems, DIB/NSIB capabilities and constraints, and threat environment. Your candor and direct feedback are critical to help identify and prioritize what needs to stop, change, or start—responses will be non-attributional and directly inform recommendations to OUSD(I&S).

Example focus areas are:

- Foreign ownership, control, or influence
- Cybersecurity
- Facility clearances
- Classified facility accreditation
- Information system authorizations

To participate in this FAST Study please contact Dr. Deanna D. Caputo (MITRE's Chief Scientist for Insider Threat Capabilities, Senior Principal Behavioral Psychologist) via email: dcaputo@mitre.org.

This FAST Study is being conducted against the backdrop of broader once-in-a-generation U.S. Government (USG) acquisition reforms emphasizing contracting speed, flexibility, and rapid delivery. Any attempt to reform DoD acquisitions cannot be successful without also addressing unnecessarily burdensome and outdated security processes. Consequently, through this OUSD(I&S)-funded study, MITRE will identify key options to **accelerate acquisition security processes in support of broader USG acquisition reform**. The new study is based on the premise that the National Industrial Security Program (NISP), established by Executive Order 12829 in January 1993, was designed for a vastly different era of DoD acquisition practices, systems, the DIB/NSIB, and threat environment. In the intervening 31 years, little has changed in the NISP's overall framework. Now is the time to optimize the DoD's acquisition security—NISP, Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), and other requirements—to effectively support acquisition reform, and strengthen the security posture that protects our warfighter capabilities.

Acquisition Security Definition

"The proactive planning and integration of all security disciplines and other defensive methods into the defense acquisition process to protect weapons systems and related sensitive technology; technical information such as research data with military applications; and support systems from foreign intelligence collection, unauthorized disclosure, sabotage, theft, or damage throughout the technology's life cycle." - (DoD Defense Acquisition University, 2025)

Points of Contact (POCs)

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